GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:151
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2003
BAN ON SERIALS PROMOTING SUPERSTITION/EXTRA MARITAL RELATION
DUKHA BHAGAT;HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether at present all the serials on both the channels of Doordarshan as wellas the cable are based only on two subjects i.e. superstition and extra-marital relations and rural India is not visible in these serials;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether telecasting of knowledge, science, art, culture and agriculture in all these programmes is also very nominal;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken/being taken by the Government to change this situation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.151 to be answered on 27.02.2003.

(a) & (b): Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan as a public servicebroadcaster does not telecast programmes which support superstition and illicit relations. All the programmes telecast on Doordarshan are previewed before telecast to ensure that they are suitable for family viewing and are in accordance with the provisions of Doordarshan`s Broadcast Code.

The programmes telecast on satellite channels when distributed through cable network, are required to adhere to the Programme Code laid down in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. The Programme Code does not permitprogrammes which encourage superstitions or offend good taste and decency.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan telecasts programmes oninformation, education and entertainment. Educational programmes on Doordarshan cover various subjects like science, art, culture, agriculture, health, environment etc.

Government has no role in programme decisions of private satellite TV networks.

(d) & (e) : Do not arise.